Member in the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) were granted the Higher Administrative Grade (+) scale (Rs.75,500-80,000/-). Subsequently, after taking into account various aspects, the Govt. of India has decided to further upgrade the above posts to the apex scale of Rs. 80,000/- (fixed) with the status of Special Secretary to the Govt. of India.

(b) the grade of Higher Administrative Grade (+) is applicable to some posts in the Indian Police Service, but not to Indian Administrative Service;

(c) no action has been taken on the issue;

(d) the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission regarding Central Staffing Scheme are not listed in the pending items notified for further deliberations by the Government.

Special economic package for Bihar

†1858. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has demanded a special economic package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes not to give Bihar the status of a special State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Finance has not received any demand for a Special Economic Package for the Government of Bihar in the current year. However, Chief Minister of Bihar has written a letter to the Prime Minister seeking assistance and support on various issues including Kosi Reconstruction and Rehabilitation and grant of Special Category Status to Bihar. A proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar regarding grant of Special Category Status to the State and Government of India is seized of the matter.

Broadening the net for excise duty

1859. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to raise tax revenue for economic recovery, it has become necessary to broaden the net for excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it be ensured that the poor and lower middle class people are not adversely affected?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.